(b) and (c) Targets for completion of projects/sections are fixed on year-to-year basis depending upon availability of resources. During 2005-06, a total of 13 gauge conversion projects (partly/fully) are targeted for completion.

Broad gauge conversion projects in Tamil Nadu

4008. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time-frame fixed for completion of metre gauge conversion into broad gauge conversion projects in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) the physical and financial progress regarding gauge conversion proejcts in the State of Tamil Nadu and the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Details of the gauge conversion projects indicating financial and physical progress with targets date for completion wherever fixed is given as under:—

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the project	Anticipated Expenditure upto March, 2005	Outlay 2005-06	Status
1	2	3	4	5
Gauge Conversion				
1.	Madurai-Rameshwaram (161 kms)	56.81	25	On this project, work on Madurai Manamadurai (48 kms) has already been completed. Work on the balance section is in progress and Manamadurai-Mandapam (96 kms) is targeted for completion during 2005-06.

1	2	3	4	5
	2. Trichy-Manamandurai (150 Kms)	21.04	50	Work on minor bridges and ballast Collection are in progress and other works are also being initatied. Work on Tiruchchirappalli-Pudukottai (52 kms) is targeted for completion during 2005-2006.
	3. Quilon-Tirunelveli Tiruchendur & Tenkasi-Virudhunagar (357 Kms.)	170.33	31	On this project, work on Virudhunagar-Tenkasi has already been completed and commissioned. Works on the balance sections *i.e.* Quilon-Tenkasi and Tenkasi-Tiruchendur are also in progress. Quilon-Punalur section is targeted for completion during 2005-2006.
4.	Tiruchchirappali Nagore-Karaikal (156 Kms)	23.62	4.79	On this project, work on Tiruchchirappalli-Thanjavur section has already been completed and commissioned. Thanjavur-Thiruvarur section is planned for commissioning during 2005-06. On Nagapatinam-Vailankani section, earthwork, minor bridges and station building works are in progress.

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Villupuram-Katpadi (161 kms)	5.04	10	Earthwork and bridge works are in progress.
6.	Thanjavur-Villupuram (192 kms)	66.6	50.01	On this project, work on Thanjavur-Kumbakonam has already been completed and commissioned. Kumbakonam-Mayiladuturai (32 kms) is targeted for completion during 2005-06. This work is being implemented by Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL).
7.	Cuddalore-Salem *via* Vridhachalam (191 kms)	65.85	85	On this project, work on Vridhachalam-Cuddalore (57 kms) has already been completed and commissioned. Vridhachalam-Attur (83 kms) is targeted for completion during 2005-06. This work is being implemented by RVNL.

Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project

4009. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to dump the prestigious Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?